

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSC-01 AID-05 HA-05
/091 W

-----073049 211722Z /43

R 211458Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3370
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 DAKAR 2150

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, SG
SUBJECT: FURTHER COMMENT ON SENEGALESE CABINET RESHUFFLE

REF: (A) DAKAR 2012, (B) DAKAR 2027 (USINFO), (C) DAKAR 2035
(AIDAC), (D) DAKAR A-15

1. SUMMARY: THERE WERE FEW SURPRISES IN COMPOSITION OF NEW
SENEGALESE CABINET ANNOUNCED MARCH 15, AND MANY ANNOUNCED
CHANGES INCLUDING MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAD BEEN RUMORED
FOR A YEAR OR MORE. CABINET DESIGNATIONS SET IN MOTION
SECONDARY ROUND OF CHANGES AMONG TOP CIVIL SERVANTS WHICH IS
STILL IN MOTION, CAUSING SOME DISRUPTION IN CONDUCT OF DAILY
BUSINESS. DEPARTURE OF SUCH FIGURES AS DOUDOU NGOM,
JOSEPH MATHIAM AND BEN MADY CISSE FOLLOWS THEIR
FAILURE TO WIN POPULAR ELECTORAL MANDATE. U.S. INTERESTS DO
NOT APPEAR TO HAVE SUFFERED IN CABINET RESHUFFLE, AND THEY
HAVE PROBABLY BENEFITTED IN SEVERAL KEY AREAS. END SUMMARY.

2. REF A REPORTED ALIGNMENT OF NEW SENEGALESE CABINET FORMED
AFTER GOVERNING PARTI SOCIALISTE (PS)'S VICTORY IN
FEBRUARY 26 ELECTIONS. REF B OUTLINED MAJOR THEMES OF
CHANGES AND REF C COMMENTED ON IMPLICATIONS FOR USAID OF SHIFTS IN
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KEY MINISTRIES, INCLUDING PLAN AND COOPERATION, FINANCE
AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH,
PROMOTION HUMAINE, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT.
REF D ACCURATELY ANTICIPATED SEVERAL CHANGES INCLUDED
IN RESHUFFLE, INCLUDING REPLACEMENT OF ASSANE SECK BY
BABACAR BA IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. AIRGRAM
CONCLUDED THAT, DESPITE BA'S PAST REPUTATION AS ALOOF

AND INACCESSIBLE, HE HAD MELLOWED OF LATE AND MIGHT WELL PROVE MORE RECEPTIVE TO U.S. VIEWS ON SOME FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS THAN SECK HAS BEEN.

3. CABINET APPOINTMENTS SET IN MOTION SECONDARY ROUND OF MUSICAL CHAIRS WHICH INCLUDES REASSIGNMENT FROM PLAN TO FINANCE OF SECRETARY GENERAL MADIENG DIAKHATE, APPOINTMENT OF ANDRE SONKO, FORMER CHIEF OF BUREAU OF ORGANIZATION AND METHODS, AS GOVERNMENT SECRETARY GENERAL, ASSIGNMENT OF DJIBO KA, MOUSTAPHA NIASSE'S ASSISTANT, TO REPLACE HIM AS DIRECTOR OF PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S CABINET, DESIGNATION OF FORMER FINANCE SECRETARY GENERAL MOMAR TALLA CISSE AS DELEGATE GENERAL FOR TOURISM, AND ASSIGNMENT OF JACQUES DIOUF, PREVIOUS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ADRAO, AS DELEGATE GENERAL FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. SEVERAL KEY POSITIONS INCLUDING SECRETARY-GENERAL OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REMAIN VACANT, AND ALL MINISTRIES INVOLVED ARE IN STATE OF TRANSITION WHICH IS DIRECTLY AFFECTING THE TRANSACTION OF DAILY BUSINESS.

4. OVERALL, MOST ANNOUNCED CHANGES WERE PREDICTABLE AND MANY FULFILLED PROPHECIES WHICH HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING FOR A YEAR OR MORE. SOME PUNDITS SEE HAND OF PRIME MINISTER ABDOU DIOUF AS HAVING BEEN REINFORCED BY SHIFTS OF OUSMANE SECK AND BABACAR BA AND BY TECHNOCRATIC ORIENTA-
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TION OF MOST NEW CABINET MEMBERS.
ADRIEN SENGHOR'S SHIFT TO NEWLY CREATED MINISTRY OF EQUIPMENT IS BEING CITED AS PREDICTABLE STEP UP FOR PRESIDENT'S NEPHEW, SINCE OTHER MINISTERS WILL BE OBLIGED TO LOOK TO HIM FOR SUPPORT.

5. IMPACT OF INDIVIDUAL SHOWING IN PARTY PRIMARIES AND NATIONAL ELECTIONS WAS AGAIN EVIDENT IN RESHUFFLE. PRESIDENT SENGHOR HAD REPORTEDLY PRESSURED CABINET AND SUB-CABINET MEMBERS TO ESTABLISH OR RECLAIM PERSONAL POLITICAL BASES, BUT SOME WERE UNSUCCESSFUL IN DOING SO. AMONG THOSE LEAVING CABINET WERE DOUDOU NGOM (REPUDIATED BY HIS POLITICAL BASE IN UNION MOVEMENT), JOSEPH MATHIAM (WHOSE ATTEMPTED IMPOSITION AS PS LEADER IN OUSSOUYE PROMPTED LOCAL PARTY FAVORITE TO DEFECT TO OPPOSITION WHICH WON LANDSLIDE IN MUNICIPAL ELECTION), AND BEN MADY CISSE (FORMERLY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PROMOTION HUMAINE, WHO WAS ON PS SLATE HEADED BY ETIENNE CARVALHO WHICH MET DEFEAT IN PARTY CAUCUS IN ZIGUINCHOR). (FURTHER BACKGROUND ON THESE CASES WAS CONTAINED REF D.) NET EFFECT IS TO DEMONSTRATE ONCE AGAIN THAT POPULAR WILL DOES HAVE INDIRECT BUT DEMONSTRABLE INFLUENCE AT SEVERAL STAGES

IN DETERMINING SENEGALESE LEADERSHIP, EVEN IN
MANY -- BUT NOT ALL TOP APPOINTIVE POSTS.

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-----073129 211721Z /43

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 DAKAR 2150

6. SENGHOR'S HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS ARE AGAIN EVIDENT IN
DESIGNATION OF WOMEN TO HOLD TWO NEW PORTFOLIOS.
HE HAD PREVIOUSLY SPELLED OUT HIS
INTENTION THAT THESE POSTS WOULD BE AWARDED TO ONE
POLITICIAN (CAROLINE DIOP--MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS)
AND ONE PROFESSIONAL (MAIMOUNA KANE--SECRETARY OF
STATE FOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT). SENGHOR ALSO HAD TALKED
UP HIS COMMITMENT TO BRING YOUTH INTO GOVERNMENT, AND
AT LEAST THREE OF NEW CABINET MEMBERS
(MOUSTAPHA NIASSE, FRANCOIS BOB AND ROBERT SAGNA) ARE
IN THEIR THIRTIES). ON OTHER HAND, SENGHOR'S EFFICIENT
FRENCH-BORN MINISTER OF INTERIOR, JEAN COLLIN--ONE OF
THE PRESIDENT'S MOST LOYAL COLLABORATORS--IS IN HIS
FOURTEENTH YEAR IN SENEGALESE CABINET.

7. ONE UNANTICIPATED CHANGE WAS REPLACEMENT AS DELEGATE
GENERAL OF TOURISM OF MOUSTAPHA FALL, U.S. EDUCATED
WHIZ KID (WHO HAD DIRECTED SUCCESSFUL SENEGALESE CAMPAIGN
TO TAP AMERICAN TOURIST MARKET). DAKAR DAILY LE SOLEIL
SPECULATES THAT FALL'S DEPARTURE IS RELATED TO 1977 LAW
WHICH DECLARES SENIOR APPOINTIVE, SUB-MINISTERIAL CIVIL
SERVICE POSTS TO BE "INCOMPATIBLE" WITH SEAT IN NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY. IF THIS PROVISION IS GOING TO BE RIGOROUSLY
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APPLIED, FALL IS NOT ONLY DEPUTY WHO WILL BE AFFECTED.

8. ON BALANCE, AS DISCUSSED IN MORE DETAIL IN REFS C
AND D, MISSION CONSIDERS THAT U.S. INTERESTS HAVE NOT
SUFFERED IN ANY READILY IDENTIFIABLE WAY IN CABINET
REALIGNMENT, AND IN SEVERAL KEY AREAS OUR PRESENT GOOD
RELATIONSHIPS WITH SENEGALESE OFFICIALS SHOULD BE EVEN
BETTER IN WAKE OF RECENT CHANGES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, GOVERNMENT REFORM, REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DAKAR02150
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780124-0701
Format: TEL
From: DAKAR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780344/aaaabkwe.tel
Line Count: 182
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8bda60c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 DAKAR 2012, 78 DAKAR 2027, 78 DAKAR 2035
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3260066
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FURTHER COMMENT ON SENEGALESE CABINET RESHUFFLE
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, SG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8bda60c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014